when seen in the direction of transport TR. Alternatively, the transfer unit 12 can also advance the finished sausages to a discharge means provided with a conveyor belt. Also the suspension unit 10 rests on rollers 14, and it is connected to the length-dimensioning unit 5 through a fastening means 17.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete Claims at top of page.

At Line 1, before claim 1, please insert: We claim:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1 (Amended). A sausage-producing device (1) comprising in combination a stuffing unit (16) with a charging pipe (3) for stuffing sausage skins, a length-dimensioning unit (5) for controlled removal of the stuffed sausage skins, and a clip module (8) for closing the stuffed sausage skins arranged directly after said length-dimensioning unit (5) when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins.

2 (Amended). A device according to claim 1, wherein said charging pipe (3) has associated therewith a twist-off unit (4).

3 (Amended). A device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said clip module (8) includes a cutter.

4 (Amended). A device according to claim 1, wherein said clip module (8) includes a loop former.

5 (Amended). A device according to claim 1, wherein, when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins, said clip module (8) is followed by a transfer unit (12).

6 (Amended). A device according to claim 5, wherein, when seen in the direction of transport of the stuffed sausage skins, said transfer unit (12) is followed by a conveyor belt.

7 (Amended). A device according to claim 5, wherein, when seen in the direction of

transport of the stuffed sausage skins, said transfer unit (12) is followed by a suspension unit (10).

8 (Amended). A device according to claim 1, wherein said stuffing unit (16), said length-dimensioning unit (5) and said clip module (8) are connected via control lines to a control means (7) for the sausage-producing device so that the functions of said length-dimensioning unit (5) and of said clip module (8) can be synchronized.

9 (Amended). A device according to claim 8, wherein said transfer unit (12) and said conveyor belt are connected to said control means for the sausage-producing device via control lines so as to synchronize the functions of said transfer unit and said conveyor belt with the functions of said stuffing unit (16), said length-dimensioning unit (5) and said clip module (8).

10 (Amended). A method of producing sausages comprising the steps of stuffing sausage skins via a charging pipe (3), transporting the stuffed sausage skins away in a controlled manner via a length-dimensioning unit (5), and closing the stuffed sausage skins by a clip module (8) directly after the length-dimensioning unit (5).

11 (Amended). A method according to claim 10, and twisting the sausage skins off after stuffing and before they are transported away via the length-dimensioning unit (5).

12 (Amended). A method according to claim 10, and controlling the clip module (8) via a control means (7) in such a way that the stuffed sausage skins are closed synchronously with the stuffing of the sausage skins.

13 (Amended). A method according to claim 10, and closing the stuffed sausage skins with the clip module (8) at two juxtaposed points.

14 (Amended). A method according to claim 13, and cutting through the stuffed sausage skins with the clip module (8) between these two points.

15 (Amended). A method according to claim 14, and said step of cutting through is effected after each n-th closure so as to obtain chains of sausages which comprise a specific number of sausages ($n \in 1N$).

16 (Amended). A method according to claim 11, and closing the stuffed sausage skins by the clip module (8) twice at the twist-off point.

17 (Amended). A method according to claim 10, and advancing the stuffed sausage skins, which have been closed by the clip module (8), to a transfer unit (12).

18 (Amended). A method according to claim 17, and, when seen in the direction of transport, transferring the stuffed sausage skins to a conveyor belt after the transfer unit (12).

19 (Amended). A method according to claim 17, and causing the functions of the clip module (18) to take place in synchronism with the functions of the length-dimensioning unit and the transfer unit.

20 (Amended). A device according to claim 1, wherein said clip module(8) is arranged at the rear end of said length-dimensioning unit (5), when seen in the direction of transport of the sausages.

Please add the following new claims:

21. A device according to claim 8, wherein said transfer unit (12) and said suspension unit are connected to said control means for the sausage-producing device via control lines so as to synchronize the functions of said transfer unit (12) and said suspension unit with the functions of said stuffing unit (16), said length-dimensioning unit (5) and said clip module (8).